

New Jersey

Preliminary Report

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2002

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

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U.S. Department of Agriculture
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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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Introduction

Preliminary 2002 Census of Agriculture statistics presented in this report describe the number of farms and ranches by size and type for each State and the Nation. Selected demographic items portray the American farmers and ranchers who are the source of U. S. agricultural production. Demographic data include gender of operator, age group categories, race, years on present farm, days worked off farm, number of persons living in farm households, and number of households deriving income from this farm or ranch. Data are presented as preliminary because the comprehensive census review of all items to the county level is continuing. These data are therefore subject to some limited change when final census results are released. The expected date for the release of the complete report is June 3, 2004.

The Abbreviated Historical Highlights table provides selected data items for each census from 1974. Since 1969, the Census of Agriculture has been conducted principally via mail returns using a list of known and potential operators. Although comprehensive in measuring the vast majority of U.S. economic activity in agriculture, the mail list provides an incomplete measure of all operations that qualify as farms or ranches. The official definition of a farm or ranch includes all places where \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year. Many small operations meeting the farm definition do not appear on any list of agricultural producers or farm program recipients and therefore have not been represented by the census mail enumeration.

The 2002 Census of Agriculture introduced new methodology to account for all farms in the United States. Incompleteness in the census mail list has been measured by matching list names against all qualifying operations found by canvassing sample land areas throughout the nation. Information from an area based

sample has historically been used to evaluate the coverage achieved in agricultural censuses. It is primarily new and small operations, and often women and minority operators, who are underrepresented on the mail list.

To assist data users to transition to the new, more complete census basis, the 1997 Census of Agriculture results are provided two ways. Data for 1997 are shown as published earlier with comparisons to previous censuses and then reweighted for undercoverage to be more comparable to the 2002 Census of Agriculture results. The 1997 Census thereby provides a “bridge” from the data that were based solely on the mail list to the current 2002 representation of all U.S. farms and ranches. Only one set of 1997 data is presented for Alaska and Hawaii as no coverage adjustment occurred for these two states.

The total number of farms in the United States serves as an example of the impact of the change. In the 1997 Census of Agriculture, the mail list accounted for 1,911,859 farms and ranches. Adding in the measured undercoverage resulted in a 1997 total of 2,215,114 farms and ranches as shown in the Historical Highlights table.

The comparable total for all U.S. farms and ranches in 2002 is 2,129,355 representing a decline of approximately 4 percent since 1997. Most of the farm land has historically been included in the mail census totals since the larger operations are on the mail list. Therefore, there are proportionally larger changes to number of farms as a result of coverage adjustment than to land in farms. This lowers the average farm size on the new basis.

General Terms

The following definitions and explanations apply to the

terms and phrases used in this publication. Definitions are essentially the same as those used in earlier censuses, but new items have been added and are explained below.

Farm. In 2002, a farm is defined as any place where \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold. The \$1,000 threshold can be met by any combination of sales and government payments. Abnormal farms are institutional, experimental and research farms.

Land in farms. The acreage designated as “land in farms” consists primarily of agricultural land used for crops, pasture, or grazing. It also includes woodland and wasteland, provided it was part of the farm operator’s total operation. Land in farms includes acres in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Wetlands Reserve Programs (WRP).

Land in farms is an operating unit concept and includes land operated by owners, by those renting from others, and operated by hired managers. Land used rent free was to be reported as land rented from others. All grazing land, except land used under government permits on a per-head basis, was included as “land in farms” provided it was part of a farm or ranch. Land under the exclusive use of a grazing association was to be reported by the grazing association and included as land in farms. All land in American Indian reservations used for growing crops or grazing livestock was to be included as land in farms. Land in reservations not reported by individual American Indians or Alaska Natives or others was to be reported in the name of the tribal group that used the land. In many instances, an entire American Indian reservation was reported as one farm.

Value of sales. This category represents the gross market value of agricultural products, before taxes and production expenses, for all agricultural products sold or removed from the place in the census year, regardless of who received the payment. It includes sales by the operator(s) as well as the value of any shares received by partners, landlords, contractors, or others associated with the operation. The value of commodities placed in Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loans is included in this figure. It does not include payments received for participation in other

federal farm programs. Also, it does not include income from farm-related sources such as custom work and other agricultural services, or income from non-farm sources. Sales are expressed in current dollars for each census of agriculture with no adjustment for inflation.

Demographic Terms

The term operator designates a person who operates a farm or ranch, either doing the work or making day-to-day decisions about such things as planting, harvesting, feeding, and marketing. An operator may be the owner, a member of the owner’s household, a hired manager, a tenant, a renter, or a sharecropper. A person renting land to others or having land worked on shares by others is considered the operator only of the land retained for his/her own operation. A farm may have more than one operator. However, each operation was asked to designate one principal operator, defined below.

Total Operators. This category represents the total reported number of operators on farms and ranches. The 2002 census is the first census to ask for the total number of operators associated with the operation. It is also the first time the total number of women operators has been determined.

All (Multiple) Operators. The 2002 Census of Agriculture is the first census to collect data for more than one operator per farm. Demographic and other information was collected for up to three operators per farm, the principal operator plus one or two additional operators. This may be fewer than the total number of operators on some farms. Table columns designated as “all operators” refer to these multiple operators. Demographic data on up to the 3 operators reported are presented separately for women, by race categories, and for Hispanic origin.

Demographic information for multiple operators was collected for place of residence; days worked off farm; year began operating farm; age; sex; primary occupation; Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin; race; residence on an American Indian reservation; and number of persons living in household. If data were not reported for any of the items, they were imputed based on information reported by nearby farms with

similar acreage, tenure, and value of sales.

Principal operator. The person responsible for the on-site, day-to-day operation of the farm or ranch business. This person may be an owner, renter, a hired manager, or business manager.

Primary occupation. Primary occupation classifications were “Farming” and “Other”. Operators selected the category associated with where they spend more than 50 percent of his/her work time.

Race. Data are provided for six race categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Asian, and for operators reporting more than one race. The 2002 census is the first to provide respondents the opportunity to choose more than one race category, operators classified as “more than one race” are not included in any of the single race categories. Operators of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin are found in all of the racial groups listed in the census and were tabulated according to reported race.

American Indian and Alaska Native farm operators. This category was previously labeled American Indian operators; and included Alaska Native operators. To ensure complete coverage of this category the term Alaska Native was added in 2002 census.

Number of households sharing in net income of farm. These data are new in the 2002 Census of Agriculture. The principal operator reported the number of households sharing net income. Hired managers were excluded from reporting this item.

Symbols and abbreviations - The following symbols and abbreviations are used throughout the tables:

- Zero
- (X) Not Applicable
- (NA) Not Available or Not Published

If you have any questions about the census of agriculture, please call the National Agricultural Statistics Service at 800-727-9540.

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Abbreviated Historical Highlights: 2002 and Earlier Census Years

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

All farms	2002	1997	Not adjusted for coverage					
			1997	1992	1987	1982	1978	1974
Farms number	9,937	10,045	9,101	9,079	9,032	8,277	7,984	7,409
Land in farms acres	816,171	856,909	832,600	847,595	894,426	916,331	987,309	961,395
Average size of farm acres	82	85	91	93	99	111	124	130
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres	2,517	2,576	2,249	2,099	1,862	1,487	1,211	1,048
10 to 49 acres	4,485	4,307	3,807	3,726	3,549	3,052	2,672	2,215
50 to 179 acres	1,957	2,042	1,927	2,079	2,316	2,328	2,570	2,690
180 to 499 acres	617	766	768	836	939	1,047	1,155	1,128
500 to 999 acres	247	240	238	250	286	286	299	254
1,000 to 1,999 acres	96	92	90	74	60	62	63	56
2,000 acres or more	18	22	22	15	14	15	14	18
Farms by value of sales ¹ :								
Less than \$2,500	5,261	4,003	3,352	3,136	3,089	2,316	1,939	2,032
\$2,500 to \$4,999	1,001	1,204	1,105	1,175	1,281	1,179	1,089	751
\$5,000 to \$9,999	822	1,156	1,097	1,144	1,163	1,106	1,128	939
\$10,000 to \$24,999	980	1,274	1,195	1,358	1,201	1,221	1,296	
\$25,000 to \$49,999	457	718	689	676	632	683	774	⁴ 2,921
\$50,000 to \$99,999	353	510	502	530	578	661	820	
\$100,000 to \$499,999	726	891	874	869	932	969	849	680
\$500,000 or more	337	289	287	191	156	124	65	61
Farms by type of organization:								
Family or individual	8,583	8,454	7,604	7,553	7,530	6,933	6,675	(NA)
Partnership	587	678	635	668	740	732	785	(NA)
Corporation	695	826	783	780	704	563	479	(NA)
Other-cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc	72	87	79	78	58	49	45	(NA)
Total operators	15,396	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Total women operators	5,155	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Principal operator by days of work off farm ² :								
None	4,361	3,766	3,503	3,475	3,199	3,087	3,468	2,785
Any	5,576	5,842	5,188	5,094	5,375	4,592	4,175	3,099
200 days or more	3,905	3,931	3,478	3,396	3,666	3,076	2,746	2,031
Principal operator by primary occupation ³ :								
Farming	5,174	4,204	3,920	4,218	4,180	4,197	4,373	4,257
Other	4,763	5,841	5,181	4,861	4,852	4,080	3,611	2,766
Average age of principal operator ³ years	55.1	55.2	55.4	53.9	52.9	51.9	52.2	53.8
Number of persons living in household of-								
Principal operator	28,562	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Second operator	3,213	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Third operator	1,093	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Farms by number of households sharing in net income of farm:								
1 household	8,201	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
2 households	1,088	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
3 households	217	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4 households	55	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
5 households or more	44	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)

¹ Data for 1982 and prior years exclude abnormal farms.

² Data for 1997 and prior years do not include imputation for item nonresponse.

³ Data for 1974 apply only to individual or family operations (sole proprietorships) and partnerships.

⁴ Farms with value of sales of \$10,000 to \$99,999.

Principal Operators by Race: 2002 and 1997

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

Item	2002	1997	1997	
			Not adjusted for coverage	
White	9,752	9,890	8,963	
Black or African American	67	46	41	
American Indian or Alaska Native	25	20	18	
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ¹	2	(NA)	(NA)	
Asian ¹	53	68	60	
More than one race reported	38	(NA)	(NA)	
Other race	(NA)	21	19	

¹ In 1997, Asians and Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders were tabulated in one group.

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Selected Operator Characteristics by Race: 2002

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

Characteristics	White		Black or African American		American Indian or Alaska Native	
	All operators ¹	Principal operator	All operators ¹	Principal operator	All operators ¹	Principal operator
Operators number	14,754	9,752	110	67	37	25
Sex of operator:						
Male	9,865	7,844	69	52	34	23
Female	4,889	1,908	41	15	3	2
Primary occupation:						
Farming	7,243	5,086	48	28	8	6
Other	7,511	4,666	62	39	29	19
Place of residence:						
On farm operated	12,013	8,130	80	52	31	22
Not on farm operated	2,741	1,622	30	15	6	3
Days worked off farm:						
None	6,607	4,274	52	30	9	8
Any	8,147	5,478	58	37	28	17
1 to 49 days	778	507	9	3	-	-
50 to 99 days	512	325	3	3	-	-
100 to 199 days	1,209	816	10	7	5	-
200 days or more	5,648	3,830	36	24	23	17
Years on present farm:						
2 years or less	584	294	5	4	3	3
3 or 4 years	1,137	589	2	-	4	-
5 to 9 years	2,763	1,701	27	14	9	5
10 years or more	10,270	7,168	76	49	21	17
Age group:						
Under 25 years	267	40	-	-	-	-
25 to 34 years	714	302	1	-	1	-
35 to 44 years	3,087	1,859	4	2	16	7
45 to 54 years	4,345	2,822	34	17	9	8
55 to 64 years	3,436	2,412	31	23	6	5
65 to 74 years	1,888	1,462	30	17	3	3
75 years and over	1,017	855	10	8	2	2
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin (see text)	216	144	6	6	10	6
Race:						
White	14,754	9,752	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Black or African American	(X)	(X)	110	67	(X)	(X)
American Indian or Alaska Native	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	37	25
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Asian	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
More than one race reported	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Living on an American Indian reservation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Characteristics	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander		Asian		More than one race reported	
	All operators ¹	Principal operator	All operators ¹	Principal operator	All operators ¹	Principal operator
Operators number	2	2	104	53	53	38
Sex of operator:						
Male	-	-	66	50	34	30
Female	2	2	38	3	19	8
Primary occupation:						
Farming	2	2	53	31	30	21
Other	-	-	51	22	23	17
Place of residence:						
On farm operated	2	2	88	47	43	28
Not on farm operated	-	-	16	6	10	10
Days worked off farm:						
None	2	2	60	33	23	14
Any	-	-	44	20	30	24
1 to 49 days	-	-	4	1	2	2
50 to 99 days	-	-	2	-	1	-
100 to 199 days	-	-	9	5	2	2
200 days or more	-	-	29	14	25	20
Years on present farm:						
2 years or less	-	-	4	3	2	-
3 or 4 years	-	-	4	1	2	-
5 to 9 years	-	-	22	11	15	11
10 years or more	2	2	74	38	34	27
Age group:						
Under 25 years	-	-	-	-	2	-
25 to 34 years	-	-	5	-	4	2
35 to 44 years	2	2	19	6	11	6
45 to 54 years	-	-	42	21	18	13
55 to 64 years	-	-	26	15	12	11
65 to 74 years	-	-	7	6	4	4
75 years and over	-	-	5	5	2	2
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin (see text)	-	-	13	10	3	3
Race:						
White	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Black or African American	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
American Indian or Alaska Native	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2	2	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Asian	(X)	(X)	104	53	(X)	(X)
More than one race reported	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	53	38
Living on an American Indian reservation	-	-	-	-	-	-

¹ Data were collected for a maximum of three operators per farm.

Women Operators - Selected Operator Characteristics: 2002 and 1997

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

Characteristics	All operators 2002 ¹	Principal operator		Characteristics	All operators 2002 ¹	Principal operator	
		2002	1997			2002	1997
Operators ² number	4,992	1,938	1,601	Age group:			
Sex of operator:				Under 25 years	115	16	4
Male	(X)	(X)	(X)	25 to 34 years	264	75	72
Female	4,992	1,938	1,601	35 to 44 years	1,166	441	320
Primary occupation:				45 to 54 years	1,606	640	481
Farming	2,268	1,059	751	55 to 64 years	1,109	409	(NA)
Other	2,724	879	850	65 to 74 years	485	199	(NA)
Place of residence ³ :				75 years and over	247	158	(NA)
On farm operated	4,337	1,732	1,370	Spanish, Hispanic, or			
Not on farm operated	655	206	140	Latino origin (see text)	80	38	20
Days worked off farm ³ :				Race:			
None	2,418	978	717	White	4,889	1,908	(NA)
Any	2,574	960	804	Black or African American	41	15	(NA)
1 to 49 days	237	75	(NA)	American Indian or Alaska Native	3	2	(NA)
50 to 99 days	203	80	(NA)	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2	2	(NA)
100 to 199 days	493	221	202	Asian	38	3	(NA)
200 days or more	1,641	584	472	More than one race reported	19	8	(NA)
Years on present farm ³ :				Living on an American			
2 years or less	273	124	67	Indian reservation	-	-	(NA)
3 or 4 years	466	175	108				
5 to 9 years	1,076	425	249				
10 years or more	3,177	1,214	952				

¹ Data were collected for a maximum of three operators per farm.

² Data presented here for all women operators is the sum of up to a maximum of three operators that were reported per farm. Data for the total number of all women operators on farms in 2002 is reported in the Abbreviated Historical Highlights table.

³ Data for 1997 do not include imputation for item nonresponse and will not sum to the total.

Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Origin Operators - Selected Operator Characteristics: 2002 and 1997

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

Characteristics	All operators 2002 ¹	Principal operator		Characteristics	All operators 2002 ¹	Principal operator	
		2002	1997			2002	1997
Operators number	248	169	123	Age group:			
Sex of operator:				Under 25 years	-	-	1
Male	168	131	103	25 to 34 years	19	11	4
Female	80	38	20	35 to 44 years	57	31	30
Primary occupation:				45 to 54 years	94	69	39
Farming	103	70	54	55 to 64 years	47	31	(NA)
Other	145	99	69	65 to 74 years	22	19	(NA)
Place of residence ² :				75 years and over	9	8	(NA)
On farm operated	212	154	94	Spanish, Hispanic, or			
Not on farm operated	36	15	22	Latino origin (see text)	248	169	123
Days worked off farm ² :				Race:			
None	76	48	32	White	216	144	(NA)
Any	172	121	87	Black or African American	6	6	(NA)
1 to 49 days	13	5	(NA)	American Indian or Alaska Native	10	6	(NA)
50 to 99 days	11	7	(NA)	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	-	-	(NA)
100 to 199 days	33	22	21	Asian	13	10	(NA)
200 days or more	115	87	42	More than one race reported	3	3	(NA)
Years on present farm ² :				Living on an American Indian reservation	-	-	(NA)
2 years or less	19	14	8				
3 or 4 years	18	9	11				
5 to 9 years	60	39	22				
10 years or more	151	107	59				

¹ Data were collected for a maximum of three operators per farm.

² Data for 1997 do not include imputation for item nonresponse and will not sum to the total.

February 2, 2004

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY IS CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE DATA IMPORTANT?

The census of agriculture is the most comprehensive source of data portraying our Nation's agriculture. It is the only source of uniform data on number of farms, land use, agricultural production, and operator characteristics for each county, State, and the United States. It is a measurement of where farmers and ranchers stand, their production costs and cropping systems, their farm supply needs, and how trends are changing. Because of the importance of this information, Congress requires USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to conduct the census of agriculture (Title 7, U.S. Code) once every five years. The 2002 Census of Agriculture is the Nation's 26th census.

WHEN ARE DATA AVAILABLE?

Preliminary census of agriculture data for US and States will be available on the NASS Web site and in limited print format **February 3, 2004**. The preliminary release will include demographic items such as principal operator by race, operator characteristics by race, women operator characteristics, Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Origin operator characteristics.

Complete tabulated census of agriculture data for the US, States, and the 3,000 plus counties will be made available in **June 2004**, on both electronic and print media, with individual reports for all counties, States, and the Nation.

WHERE CAN YOU FIND CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE DATA?

You can find census of agriculture printed data through local NASS State offices, many depository libraries, universities, and other State government offices. You can find census of agriculture electronic data online at www.nass.usda.gov/census/. For additional information on the Census of Agriculture, please call the NASS Hotline at **1-800-727-9540**.